

Message Text

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ORIGIN HA-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 SS-15 NSCE-00
SIG-03 VO-05 CA-01 INSE-00 L-03 AID-05 CIAE-00
SY-05 SSO-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY HA/ORM:JBROH-KAHN:BA

APPROVED BY HA/ORM:SCLOWMAN

P:DTICE (SUBS)

NSC:LDENEND (SUBS)

EA/ANP:TWAJDA (SUBS)

EA/RA:FCBENNETT (SUBS)

-----019601 041749Z /50

O 041741Z MAY 78

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 113713

FOR VICE PRESIDENT'S PARTY (ATTN HOLBROOKE/OAKLEY)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF

SUBJECT: AUSTRALIA MESSAGE ASKING VICE PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS
BOAT REFUGEES WITH INDONESIANS

REF: A. CANBERRA 3434 (NOTAL), B. STATE 112959 (NOTAL),
C. STATE 113208 (NOTAL)

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1. REF A CARRIES MESSAGE FROM AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER PEACOCK TO VICE PRESIDENT ASKING HIM TO ASSRE GOI AT HIGHEST LEVELS THAT U.S. WILL ACCEPT ANY BOAT REFUGEES IN INDONESIA NOT ACCEPTED BY AUSTRALIA. PURPOSE IS TO REINFORCE PREVIOUS AUSTRALIAN DEMARCHE TO GOI TO INTERCEPT BOATS TRANSITING INDONESIAN WATERS HEADED TO AUSTRALIA. AUSTRALIANS HOPE THIS WILL HELP PREVENT BOATS FROM ARRIVING

DIRECTLY IN AUSTRALIA WHICH COULD TURN PUBLIC OPINION
THERE AGAINST GOA POLICY OF ACCEPTING SIGNIFICANT NUMBERS
OF INDOCHINESE FROM COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM.

2. REF A APPARENTLY CROSSED REF B WHICH STATED THAT,
UNTIL NEW U.S. 25,000 PAROLE PROGRAM WAS AUTHORIZED, IT
WOULD NOT BE USEFUL FOR U.S. TO MAKE APPROACHES ALONG WITH
AUSTRALIANS TO THAILAND, MALAYSIA, AND INDONESIA TO DETER
BOATS FROM LEAVING FOR AUSTRALIA.

3. IN LIGHT OF PEACOCK'S URGENT REQUEST TO VICE PRESIDENT,
HOWEVER, DEPT RECOMMENDS THAT LATTER, IF HE WISHES, RAISE
POINT WITH GOI ALONG FOLLOWING LINES. VICE PRESIDENT
COULD SAY THAT U.S. EXPECTS SOONEST TO AUTHORIZE NEW
PAROLE PROGRAM FOR 25,000 AND, ONCE THIS IS DONE, WE WOULD
BE PREPARED ACCEPT ALL BOAT REFUGEES IN INDONESIA NOT
ACCEPTED BY AUSTRALIA OR THIRD COUNTRIES REPEAT OR THIRD
COUNTRIES AND NOT INADMISSIBLE UNDER INA.

4. NOTE THAT, AS PEACOCK HIMSELF STATED, INDONESIANS HAVE
NOT REPLIED SUBSTANTIALLY TO AUSTRALIAN DEMARCHE ON INTER-
CEPTING BOATS AND HAVE IN FACT BEEN PROVIDING THEM FOOD
AND FUEL. THUS, VICE PRESIDENT MAY WISH TO BE CAUTIOUS
ABOUT REQUESTING GOI TO STOP DOING SOMETHING WHICH IT IS
CONTINUING TO DO DESPITE AUSTRALIAN URGINGS TO CEASE AND
DESIST.

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5. IN DISCUSSING U.S. 25,000 PAROLE PROGRAM, VICE PRESI-
DENT SHOULD BE FULLY AU COURANT WITH STATUS, DEPENDING ON
FOLLOW-UP TO DISCUSSIONS MENTIONED REF C.

6. IF HE HAS NOT ALREADY DONE SO, VICE PRESIDENT MAY WISH
TO MAKE USE IN THOSE DISCUSSIONS OF FOLLOWING POINT IN
ADDITION TO THOSE SET FORTH REF C. -- AUSTRALIA IS VERY
HOPEFUL THAT U.S. WILL BE ABLE TO MOVE AHEAD SOONEST WITH
NEW 25,000 U.S. PROGRAM IN ORDER TO ASSURE COUNTRIES OF
TEMPORARY ASYLUM THAT WE WILL HELP RELIEVE THEM OF RAPIDLY
INCREASING BURDEN OF BOAT REFUGEES. THIS IN TURN SHOULD
HELP PERSUADE COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM NOT TO PUSH
OFF BOATS TO AUSTRALIA. DIRECT ARRIVALS IN AUSTRALIA
SERIOUSLY RISK JEOPARDIZING PRESENT AUSTRALIAN PROGRAM OF
ACCEPTING FROM COUNTRIES OF TEMPORARY ASYLUM INDOCHINESE
REFUGEES AT RATE OF 8,000 A YEAR, WHICH IS VERY LARGE IN
COMPARISON TO AUSTRALIAN POPULATION. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptoning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VICE PRESIDENT, REFUGEES, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE113713
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: KAHN:BA
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780191-0137
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780592/aaaadatd.tel
Line Count: 112
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: aed898a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN HA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 CANBERRA 3434, 78 STATE 112959, 78 STATE 113208
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2790628
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AUSTRALIA MESSAGE ASKING VICE PRESIDENT TO DISCUSS BOAT REFUGEES WITH INDONESIANS
TAGS: SREF, (MONDALE, WALTER F)
To: BANGKOK JAKARTA
Type: TE
vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/aed898a4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014